

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

714/744 P STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
5) 445-1912



July 22, 1981

To: All County Welfare Directors

--Letter No. 81-31

SPECIAL SSI/SSP ELIGIBILITY STATUS FOR THE WORKING DISABLED

Public Law 96-265, passed by Congress in 1980, established a three year demonstration project to provide cash benefits, social services, and Medicaid to the working disabled. This demonstration project began January 1, 1981 and affects all those persons discontinued from SSI/SSP because their employment meets the definition of substantial gainful activity or their earnings, in combination with their other income, exceed the SSI/SSP payment level.

Those persons in this group whose employment meets the definition of substantial gainful activity (i.e., they are earning gross income of \$280 or more at the end of their trial work period) but whose net income is below the SSI/SSP payment level, will continue to receive a cash grant and Medi-Cal and to be eligible for social services. These persons will have their eligibility determined by the Social Security Administration (SSA).

Persons whose SSI/SSP cash grant is discontinued because their earnings caused their income to exceed the SSI/SSP payment level retain a special SSI/SSP eligibility status which carries automatic Medi-Cal eligibility, if SSA determines that they meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. They were receiving SSI/SSP in the month prior to the month in which eligibility under this program is determined.
2. Their earnings are less than \$889 per month plus the average Medi-Cal and social services expenditures for a blind or disabled person in California (these amounts are being computed by SSA).
3. They can show past use or current need of Medi-Cal or social services.
4. They continue to have the disability that was the basis for their SSI/SSP eligibility.
5. They continue to meet all the SSI/SSP eligibility criteria other than income.

Persons who are eligible for this special federal program who fail to get a state issued Medi-Cal card should be issued an SSI/SSP Medi-Cal card if they contact the county for a temporary card. Eligibility for Medi-Cal should be verified by written verification from the Social Security district office. When issuing the card, the aid code for these persons would be the appropriate cash grant aid code.

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Persons eligible under either of these federal categories are automatically eligible for Medi-Cal. It is our understanding that they will be reported to the Department for Medi-Cal card issuance via the SDX. We have not yet been provided information as to how they will be identified on the SDX. Once we have received this information we will issue it via an All County Letter.

The establishment of this federal program will not affect persons currently on Medi-Cal-only as SGA disabled or the SCA disabled persons eligible for IHSS unless they were discontinued from SSI/SSP after November, 1980. If a person on Medi-Cal-only as SGA disabled (defined in CAC, Title 22, Section 50233(a)(2) was discontinued from SSI/SSP after November, 1980 and is not shown as Medi-Cal eligible on the SDX, he/she should be referred to SSA to determine if eligibility for this federal program exists.

We will incorporate these instructions in the procedural portion of the Medi-Cal Eligibility Manual. If you have any questions please contact your Medi-Cal Program Consultant.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Barbara V. Carr for
Madalyn M. Martinez, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch

cc: Medi-Cal Liaisons
Medi-Cal Program Consultants

Expiration Date: January 31, 1982